International Application No. PCT/EP03/14548 Attorney Docket: THIE3020/JEK

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to place them in better form for U.S. examination. Examination of the application as-amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted, BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 19/1/

Customer 23364

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 Slaters Lane - 4th Floor Alexandria, VA 22314-1176 Telephone: (703) 683-0500 Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

Date: June 3, 2005

S:\Producer\jek\THIE3020\prelim amend.wpd